IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

May 22, 2006

In re application of	:	WEINBERG, et al.
Serial No.	:	10/623,428
Filed	:	July 18, 2003
For:		**METHOD OF DECONTAMINATION OF WHOLE STRUCTURES AND ARTICLES CONTAMINATED BY PATHOGENIC SPORES**
Examiner	:	JASTRZAB, Krisanne Marie
Art Unit	:	1774
Our File No.	:	10674.4802 (10674.3802)

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated February 21, 2006. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 6.

Cancel claim 37 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Cancelled)

2. (Previously Cancelled)

3. (Previously Cancelled)

4. (Previously Cancelled)

5. (Previously Cancelled)

6. (Previously Cancelled)

7. (Previously Cancelled)

8. (Previously Cancelled)

9. (Previously Cancelled)

10. (Previously Cancelled)

11. (Previously Cancelled)

12. (Previously Cancelled)

13. (Previously Cancelled)

14. (Previously Cancelled)

15. (Previously Cancelled)

16. (Previously Cancelled)

17. (Previously Cancelled)

18. (Previously Cancelled)

19. (Previously Cancelled)

20. (Previously Cancelled)

21. (Previously Cancelled)

22. (Previously Cancelled)

23. (Previously Cancelled)

24. (Previously Cancelled)

25. (Previously Cancelled)

26. (Previously Cancelled)

27. (Previously Cancelled)

28. (Previously Cancelled)

29. (Previously Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method of decontaminating a ~~structure~~ building interior contaminated by Bacillus anthraces comprising the steps of:

(a) substantially sealing a contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior sufficiently to enable retention of a predetermined concentration of methyl bromide gas;

(b) introducing methyl bromide gas into the substantially sealed contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior to a concentration of methyl bromide in an amount sufficient to deactivate said Bacillus anthraces and disable germination of Bacillus anthraces spores;

(c) maintaining said substantially sealed contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior with said concentration of methyl bromide for a sufficient period of time to deactivate said Bacillus anthraces and to disable germination of said Bacillus anthraces spores associated with said contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior;

(d) wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas and period of time are inversely varied while providing a sufficient gas concentration to disable germination of

said Bacillus anthraces spores associated with said contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior; and

(e) wherein a baseline concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 80mg/liter, and a baseline period of time is 48 hours.

31. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the ambient humidity within the contaminated structure is approximately 21%.

32. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the ambient humidity within the contaminated structure is between 21% and 100%.

33. (Previously Cancelled)

34. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 60ml/liter, and the sufficient period of time is approximately 72 hours.

35. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 40ml/liter, and the sufficient period of time is approximately 96 hours.

36. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the concentration of methyl bromide gas is approximately 160ml/liter, and the sufficient period of time is approximately 24 hours.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method of decontaminating a ~~structure~~ building interior contaminated by Bacillus anthraces and associated Bacillus anthraces spores

comprising the steps of:

(a) substantially sealing a contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior sufficiently to enable retention of a predetermined concentration of methyl bromide gas~~,~~;

(b) introducing methyl bromide gas into the substantially sealed contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior to a concentration of methyl bromide in an amount sufficient to deactivate said Bacillus anthraces and disable germination of Bacillus anthraces spores;

(c) maintaining said substantially sealed contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior with said concentration of methyl bromide for a sufficient period of time to deactivate said Bacillus anthraces and to disable germination of said Bacillus anthraces spores associated with said contaminated ~~structure~~ building interior;

(d) wherein temperature is kept at approximately 37°C, the concentration of methyl bromide is approximately 80 mg/l and above, and an exposure time is approximately 48 hours.